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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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February 20, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JTM*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – PERFECT
IMAGE YOUTH CENTER GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Perfect Image Youth Center, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home was providing services for two DCFS children and three Riverside County children.

Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home is located in Riverside County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Perfect Image Youth Group Home needs to clean or replace the carpet throughout the Group Home; provide sufficient lighting in the children's bedrooms; replace the bed coverings for all children's beds; provide children with access to a computer with a variety of programs; include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans, and develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals; and provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Sandy Cromer, Executive Director, The Perfect Image Youth Center
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home
Perfect Image Youth Center
16761 Washington Street
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 336408565
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the carpet throughout the Group Home is dirty and stained.

Generally, the children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, there is insufficient lighting in the children's bedrooms. The mattresses are comfortable; however, the bed coverings for the children's beds are worn and have permanent stains. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, a DVD player, books, and resource materials. However, a computer with a variety of programs, is not readily available to children.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. The Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home management.**
 - a. Clean or replace the carpet throughout the Group Home.**
 - b. Provide sufficient lighting in the bedrooms.**
 - c. Replace all the bed coverings on the children's beds.**

- d. Provide a computer with a variety of programs for the children's use.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, the Needs and Services Plans are not developed or implemented by the treatment team and do not include input from the child. The NSPs are not comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. The Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home management:

- a. Include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.**
- b. Maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are measurable, attainable, and include short and long term goals.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

Recommendations from the County of Los Angeles Department
of Auditor -Controller for Perfect Image Youth Center

June 26, 2006

1.

A. clean or replace carpet throughout the group home.

The carpet has been cleaned throughout the entire facility
the first room carpet has been replaced also the office.

B. provide sufficient lighting in the bedrooms.

Each room has new lamps with sufficient lighting.

C. Replace bed covering.


All six beds has brand new blankets on them.

2.

A. The recommendations for the group homes needs and services plan has been implemented.

B. The treatment team has been included into the development and implementation of the clients. Also the clients have a say in the matters at hand.

Thank you for your helpful tools in helping us to better assess the clients.


Monrovia Allen
Facility Manager